

Volunteers needed for Open House



Volunteers for the JSC Open House on August 26 are still needed for the afternoon hours from noon – 2 p.m., 2 - 4 p.m., and 4 - 6:30 p.m. The success of Open House will depend upon the participation of volunteers from JSC.

To sign up, visit the Open House Web site

<http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/openhouse/Databases/>

Volunteers must attend one of the following training sessions at the Teague Auditorium.

10 - 11 a.m., August 7 ■ 1 - 2 p.m., August 9
9 - 10 a.m., August 11 ■ 2 - 3 p.m., August 15

For more information, contact C.C. de la Garza (281) 483-1033, Joan Broadfoot (281) 483-4280, or Wendy Starr (281) 336-5373, who is representing TEAM NASA on the committee.

Open House, which begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m., is free to the public. Visitors may enter the center through three gates not normally open to the public – on NASA Road 1 just east of Saturn Boulevard, on Space Center Boulevard near Bay Area Boulevard, and on Space Center Boulevard near NASA Road 1. Parking in JSC lots is available at no charge.

JSC's annual Open House coincides with the annual Ballunar Liftoff Festival, a three-day event sponsored by local communities and held on the NASA grounds. The festival includes more than 100 hot air balloons, midway rides, games, skydiving exhibitions and other displays. Festival admission is \$3 for adults. Children under 12 are admitted free. ■

For more information on this year's Open House event, visit the JSC Web site at <http://openhouse.jsc.nasa.gov/> or call the information hotline at (281) 244-5312.

Hoffmann-La Roche elected to space research industry forum

Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. (Roche), a leading research-based health care corporation, has been elected as a member of the National Space Biomedical Research Institute's Industry Forum. As an Industry Forum member, Roche will help NSBRI transfer biomedical technology and research advances to the general public.

"The most important purpose of the Industry Forum is to help NSBRI bring Americans the fruits of its discoveries in space medical research – from the prevention or treatment of osteoporosis to telemedicine technologies for bringing diagnosis and treatment into homes, schools and remote areas," said Dr. Joseph Kerwin, NSBRI Industry Forum chairman and a former astronaut. "Roche has the ability and desire to make

major contributions in this area, and it will be a major asset to the Industry Forum."

The NSBRI, established in April 1997 following competitive selection by NASA, is a consortium of 12 research institutions leading a national effort to carry out the research necessary to assure safe human exploration of space. The Institute's research into the health risks associated with long-duration space travel is designed to impact similar conditions found on Earth. A few of these similarities include bone loss, muscle wasting, sleep disorders and balance problems.

Representing Roche on the Forum will be Dr. Russell Ellison, vice president, medical affairs; Dr. William Smith, director, medical science; and Dr. John Caminis, medical science leader.

"Roche looks forward to working with the NSBRI Industry Forum to facilitate moving the research of the consortium members from the 'bench to the astronaut,' to all Americans and for all mankind," Smith said.

Based in Nutley, N.J., the corporation ranks among the world's leaders in pharmaceuticals and vitamins and is the number one diagnostic company. Roche discovers, develops, manufactures and markets numerous prescription drugs that enhance people's health, well-being and quality of life. Among the company's areas of therapeutic interest are virology, including HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C; infectious diseases, including influenza; cardiology; neurology; oncology; transplantation; dermatology; and metabolic diseases including obesity and diabetes.

In addition to Roche, NSBRI Industry Forum members include The Boeing Company, Draper Laboratories, InDyne, Inc., Lockheed Martin Astronautics, Payload Systems, Inc., MBI International, SGI (formerly Silicon Graphics, Inc.), Southwestern Bell, United Space Alliance, Veridian and Wyle Laboratories.

The NSBRI's consortium members are Baylor College of Medicine, the lead institution, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Harvard Medical School, The Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Morehouse School of Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Rice University, Texas A&M University, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, University of Pennsylvania Health System and University of Washington. ■

Space Center Houston tram safety

Space Center Houston is asking for help from JSC personnel and visitors. Pedestrians entering the crosswalks too quickly and drivers cutting in front of the trams are creating a problem for the tram drivers.

One of the most familiar sights at JSC is that of Space Center Houston trams criss-crossing the streets. Drivers don't like to follow the trams because they are slow. Pedestrians assume the slow speeds mean there is

plenty of time to make it across the street before the trams overtake them. "When people suddenly dart in front of the trams on foot or in cars, the potential of harm to passengers on board the trams is increased," said Tracy Ferguson of JSC's Occupational Safety Branch.

The tram drivers are trained to anticipate pedestrian traffic in the crosswalks and will automatically slow down when they see a person approaching by gently applying the

brakes. However, if an individual steps out suddenly into a crosswalk, or worse, into an unmarked portion of the street, the tram driver reaction is to apply the brakes quickly. Applying the brakes suddenly to a 19,200-pound tram creates a great deal of forward thrust, even while only traveling the normal speed of 10-12 mph. When the tram drivers apply the brakes suddenly, the passengers, especially small children, tend to lunge forward, hitting their heads on the seats in front of them.

This happened recently, and several people on the tram were injured.

The employees at Space Center Houston are asking for the assistance of JSC personnel. They are urging extra courtesy to the trams and their passengers. Cross JSC streets in marked crosswalks only and think twice before jumping in front of a SCH tram. ■

Let's hear it!

What would you like to know?

What would you like to see or hear?

Send us your ideas for Safety & Total Health Day, and we'll try to bring you the kinds of things that will make your life better.

Send your suggestions to Jonathan Manning, Safety & Total Health Planning Committee, at x46264.

Do it now!



NASA JSC Photo S99-13240 by Steve Candler